

(2.) Your life is becoming more complex and entangled.

(3.) Your conscience is becoming seared and your heart hardened. Now is the time—the convenient season.

Essays and Contributions.

THE VOYAGE OF LIFE.

BY S. B. GRISSE.

"Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." Acts xxvii, 31.

Those who are familiar with the scriptures remember this record as a part of Paul's voyage to Rome. As the prisoners and others with Paul were struggling on in their journey, sailing had become hazardous. Their vessel was endangered and life was despaired of. But one who is able not only to carry the ship through the storms, and tempests of sea but is able to carry this frail bark of ours safely to the landing of the banks of the new Jerusalem had power to deliver them. The shipmen, though warned by one who knew what was before them, instead of heeding it depended on their own ability what was the result? Their vessel for a while sailed along nicely; their journey seemed to be nearing its close, their minds no doubt were elated over the thought that once they were right and Paul wrong. But alas! the next moment they meet despair. Storm arose and the ship is tossed to and fro, with seemingly no hope of life. The doom of a watery grave, had been accepted. The shipmen were ready to leave the ship for their life. When Paul speaks forth the words, "Except these abide in the ship, ye can not be saved."

This time they were willing to take the advice and remain in the ship. Paul knew all that was before them. Having been warned by an angel he cheers them up. By his continuous faith in Christ, he gained their confidence. He desired them to take meat, offers thanks and won the affections of all.

At last we learn that the ship run aground. The violence of the waves dash it to peices. But Paul, having assured them that no life should be lost, still has their confidence, and they believe that he has told them the truth.

But another scene awaits us all. Another journey is ours and we are sailing. As time passes by our barks are nearing the shore. The journey will soon be o'er, and one from which no traveler has ever returned. It is not a journey to Asia, Europe, or to some country where we can go and satisfy our longings and return and relate our journey to our friends.

Day by day our vessel sails through the streams of time either to a land of endless misery and woe, or to a home of eternal happiness. My brother, which is it? We may not only break our ship but may loose all. When we lose heaven we lose all.

My unconverted friend if you are sailing down the stream of time in the pleasures of this world, in the name of Jesus Christ turn the helm of your boat, and sail up stream to the Father of mansions above. This grand old ship yet ever new is safe to carry the whole crew of God's people safely to the harbor. Its strength is unquestionable. Its size is immeasurable. Its captian is reliable.

Let us for a short time think of our landing. As years go on, so you and I are fast passing away. Soon the places which know us will know us no more. The voices which we now hear will be silent in the tomb.

Many fathers and mothers have crossed the silent river, and are now awaiting the arrival of their loved ones. Many dear and loving children have been snatched from the arms of fathers and mothers who are gathered around the throne of our blessed Saviour singing the songs of redeeming love.

May we continue to hold out the signal of God's eternal truth to those who are not yet numbered with God's redeemed.

FAITH.

Faith is the knowledge that comes from accepting the evidence of the spiritual senses.

I know of things physical by the evidence received by my physical senses; of the habits of animals, the forms, varieties and growth of plants.

I know that my father has spoken to me because I have heard his voice; I know his will for me because I heard the things he said to me. Words and speech are but means of communicating intelligence to my understanding.

Sisters' Department.

S. S. C. E. NOTES.

How very little we know of our future. Duties of various kinds have prevented my visiting you through the mail as I promised. Here we are near the first of March, 1894. What has the S. S. C. E. done in the six months of the year just past? If we keep on at the rate we are going what will our record be at our next national conference? The "stringency of finances" and the interests at home will largely account for our small income as a National S. S. C. E., but we must be careful that we do not make these a cloak for our selfishness. It is now time that each society collect and forward to Sister Sarah Keim, Louisville, Ohio, the semi-annual membership fee. Let this receive your *immediate attention*. Let your name be among the prompt and loyal ones which will be reported in the EVANGELIST early in April.

We hear some say; Are you using the funds already collected as you agreed to do at last conference? Our evangelistic committee made its report, and told you they were ready to receive calls for work. I know now they hesitated to give this privilege thinking the calls would be so numerous and our funds so limited that what we could respond to would be only a drop in the bucket, and they would be at a loss to know where to send the drop. But, to my astonishment,

NOT ONE CALL HAS BEEN MADE that I have heard of. Why this is I cannot tell. There are certainly many places where souls are needing the "bread of life."

We thought it a better plan to send laborers where they were solicited because there would then be more sympathy and interest manifested by those receiving the service. Perhaps we should send a preacher to some of the many places where our doctrine would be accepted if heard. "How then shall they call on Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?"

You have all been silent a long time. Sisters Garber, Slotter, Wolf and Hoff-